

I have had the great honor of representing Hollister in Congress for many years. It is a remarkable little city that is nestled between scenic coastal mountain ranges and surrounded by some of the world's most productive agriculture. There is little to hint that this beautiful rural community lies just fifty miles south of San Jose and the greater San Francisco Bay Area metropolis. However, along with its neighbor, the City San Juan Bautista, founded in the late eighteenth century, Hollister and its region's history are a microcosm of the California story, and the airport is an important part of that narrative.

After WWI, pilots like Frank Bryant began shipping their planes by rail into Hollister for assembly and flight preparation. The little field just north of town was a popular site for various flying activities. By the mid 1920s, a pioneer in the then new business of crop dusting, a man named Everett Turner, purchased the land and converted the old pasture into Turner Field. For the next twenty years, crop dusters, mail-carrying aircraft, and all manner of recreational airplanes flew in and out Hollister's Turner Field airfield.

With war looming in the early 1940s, the U.S. Navy took control of Turner Field and commissioned it the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Hollister. After the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into WWII, the U.S. military faced a critical shortage of trained carrier pilots. The Navy began a massive pilot training program, which included the acquisition of the Del Monte Hotel in nearby Monterey to house pilot trainees at the nearby Monterey Naval Air Station and the expansion of the former Turner Field to primarily help train those and other pilots in ground attack techniques. VC-39 was the first squadron to report followed by VC-42 and VC-68 in 1943. The new base soon grew to accommodate two light carrier air groups of four squadrons with the addition of two hangars and a ground training building. By 1945, at the height of the Navy's presence, the base included 210 acres, two 200 foot wide tarmac runways of 4,300 and 4,000 foot lengths, and billeting for 167 officers and 928 enlisted men.

After the War, the Navy no longer needed its Hollister base and it sold the airfield to the City of Hollister. Since that time, the little airport has built upon the excellent facilities left by the Navy to grow into a thriving general aviation airport. It has become a national center for historic aircraft restoration as well as home to a critical base of aerial operations for Cal Fire, the State of California's wildland fire service. It is also an important business hub. With its close proximity to the San Francisco Bay Area, good flying weather, and high quality transportation links, the Hollister Airport is poised to become a leading regional economic engine. In addition, the Hollister Airport now hosts one of the West's premier air shows.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in offering our gratitude to the Hollister Airport family—past, present, and future—for making this little gem such an important piece of our nation's aviation economy and culture.

H.R. 5326, THE COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5326, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. The legislation contains damaging cuts to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and to the Legal Services Corporation. It also contains provisions that would further weaken the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the protections that the agency provides to unionized workers.

H.R. 5326 contains a nearly \$227 million cut to NASA's top-line, putting it at \$1.15 billion below its FY2010 funding level. Thousands of private-sector jobs at NASA centers across the country have already been lost as a result of austere budget reductions. The cuts included in this legislation will result in the loss of hundreds more. NASA must be given adequate funding to ensure that the agency can accomplish its assigned missions, to maintain and grow investments in America's global competitiveness in aerospace technologies, and to preserve the United States' world leadership in space exploration.

This legislation contains a \$20 million cut from FY2012 levels to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The LSC provides vital legal support to the most vulnerable populations, including veterans, victims of domestic violence, and those who would not otherwise be able to afford legal representation. The cuts included in H.R. 5326 would force the LSC to lay off over 100 staff attorneys at a time when an increasing number of Americans are experiencing poverty.

This bill includes an amendment that would prevent the National Labor Relations Board from protecting American workers seeking exercise their right to form collective bargaining units by prohibiting funds from being used by the NLRB to litigate conflicts that arise out of secret ballot union elections. When workers attempt to form a union, they must often rely on the support and expertise of the NLRB. This amendment would take that assistance away. This provision further weakens the nation's only agency dedicated solely to protecting workers' rights in this country.

Another amendment to this bill effectively prohibits the Department of Justice from enforcing the most fundamental of civil rights: the right to vote. According to a recent report from the Brennan Center for Justice, in the past year alone, fourteen states have enacted voter identification laws or imposed executive orders about voting or voter registration which have resulted in numerous documented instances of American citizens being denied the right to vote. The Department of Justice's inability to exercise critical oversight of such laws and executive orders will continue to result in the disenfranchisement of racial and ethnic minorities, low-income voters, seniors, and students.

H.R. 5326 puts American jobs, basic rights, and our global leadership in the aerospace sector at risk. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill.

RECOGNIZING LT. DOMINIQUE WRIGHT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Lt. Dominique Wright for excellence in education and athletics. On May 29, 2012, Lt. Dominique Wright graduated from the United States Naval Academy, becoming the first African American woman from the District of Columbia to graduate from there, and was commissioned at Annapolis, Maryland.

Lt. Wright, the daughter of a single parent, has overcome many obstacles in her young life. Yet she became the quintessential scholar-athlete. "Dom" or "Domatron," as she is called by friends was a mathematics major who plans on attending law school. She was a star on the Midshipmen's lacrosse team, starting all 21 games during her junior year, just one year after learning the sport. Lt. Wright was lettered in track and field in high school and was a Junior Olympian.

Lt. Wright is only the second African American woman from the District of Columbia to attend the Naval Academy, but is the first one to graduate. I nominated Lt. Wright twice: first in 2008 to the Naval Academy Prep School, then in 2009 to the Naval Academy. Dominique's excellence in scholastics and in sports should encourage other young people, particularly young women of color, to understand that no field is off limits.

Lt. Wright is an inspiration to young girls, to women, and to all the residents of the District of Columbia. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Lt. Dominique Wright, the first African American woman graduate of the United States Naval Academy from Washington, D.C. and a trailblazing example of excellence.

ACCUSED PERPETRATORS OF 9/11 SCHEDULED TO FACE TRIAL BEFORE A MILITARY COMMISSION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, no one in this body needs to be reminded that on Sept. 11, 2001, the United States suffered one of the most horrific acts of mass murder in the history of our country. The deaths of nearly 3,000 Americans thrust this nation into a fight against an unconventional, non-state enemy that embraces terror, violence, and human destruction in a purposeful attack on civilian populations. That fight continues today.

In March 2007, the alleged mastermind of the plot, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, was captured. He and four others have been charged with 169 overt acts in furtherance of the 9/11 attacks on innocent Americans, including 2,973 individual counts of murder in violation of the law of war and providing material support of terrorism. They are now scheduled to face trial at Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba.